

Introduction to International Relations
Sam Houston State University Fall 2009
T/TH 3:30 - 4:50 CHSS 232

Professor: Dr. Rhonda Callaway

Phone: 936-577-5817

Office Hours: T/TH 12:30 - 1:30 and by appointment

Office: CHSS 490B

Email: rhonda.callaway@shsu.edu

Course Description:

The post 9-11 world is constantly changing and our understanding of world politics continues to evolve. This course introduces tools that will help us grapple with the changing nature of international politics. **This is not a course about current events, but about cause and effect in world affairs.** We want to know what occurred, but also why. As such this course will focus on theories, or models, that help us link cause and effect. Various themes in international relations including the importance of the state, the causes of conflict, the role of economic factors, globalization, terrorism, and the struggle in the developing world will be considered in this course. Student preparedness and participation in class discussions will be geared toward understanding and applying theories to real world international issues. Hopefully you will find this class exciting, as you begin to apply theories to political events around the world!

Course Objectives:

In general, the student will

- Learn specific terminology, concepts, and fundamental principles as they pertain to international relations
- Learn how to apply course materials in order to better understand the most important issues and challenges in the international system
- Develop and/or enhance analytical and critical thinking skills necessary to explain and evaluate the major theoretical approaches in the study of international relations

Required Text:

- Bova, Russell, *How the World Works*, Pearson.
- Bova, Russell, *Readings on How the World Works*, Pearson

Course Requirements:

Analytical Papers/Class Assignments	20%
Exams (3 exams worth 20% each)	60%
Group Paper and Presentation	20%

Grading:

Course grades of 90 - 100 will be scored an A; a B is 80 to 89; 70 to 79 is a C; 60 to 69 is a D; below 60 is an F.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. That means that if you are late to class, your assignment is counted late. Late assignments will receive a penalty of one letter grade per day. Exceptions may be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor in advance. If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is *your responsibility* to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. You should also always make a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me. Any students caught cheating in this course will receive a minimum punishment of a failing grade for the class.

Reading:

In order to get the most out of this class you should read assigned materials before the classroom discussion on that topic. It is your job to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Reading critically requires you to plan to spend time reading, thinking analytically about what you are reading and how it fits in with the rest of the class.

Critical reading often requires students to read material more than once. It may be helpful to take notes when reading the material and bring any questions to class. You are expected to come to class having read the material critically and prepared to discuss it.

Reading Quizzes:

If it becomes clear that students are not completing the assigned reading, I will begin to give reading quizzes. These assignments may be announced or unannounced, and will presume that you have critically read all of the assigned material up to that point. **You will not do well in this class if you do not come to class and do the assigned readings.**

Attendance and Participation:

As this is an upper level class and we will cover a good deal of material every class period, missing even one class will likely be reflected in your overall grade. It has been my experience that poor attendance will result in a poor grade in the class. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Poor attendance will be reflected directly in the in-class assignments and indirectly in your exam grade. Please be on time to class and plan to stay, as entering a class late or leaving early is always disruptive. Such a disruption is unfair to the rest of the class, and will result in you being counted absent.

A large part of this course is discussion oriented. As such, **participation** in class discussions is strongly encouraged. As students, you will get the most out of this class if you engage in the discussions. Participation specifically refers to offering your view or opinion and actively talking about the assigned reading in class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class.

Other Important Policies:

Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you

study more effectively or recommend other assistance. **Remember - I want you to do well in this course.**

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.* **Please be aware that plagiarized work will result in an "F" in the course.** See the following web address for more information on academic dishonesty. http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/810213.html

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students must turn off all cell phones while in the classroom, this includes text messaging. The use of cell phones or other technical devices will not be tolerated. If you would prefer to text then do not come to class. USE OF SUCH A DEVICE DURING CLASS TIME WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF ONE LETTER GRADE PER OFFENSE. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. **The student must inform the professor in advance.** *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Students with Disabilities Policy: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. *See Student Syllabus Guidelines.*

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester.

The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 restricts release of certain student information, such as grades. In accordance with the law, I will not be able to give grades out over the phone or e-mail. Please - DO NOT ASK.

I. Theories, History, and Actors

August 26	Introduction	
August 28	Theories of IR: Realism	Bova, Ch 1 (-24) Reader Ch 1 (Mearsheimer)
Sept 1 - 3	Movie	
Sept 8	Theories of IR: Liberalism	Reader Ch 1 (Russett and Oneal)
Sept 10	Theories of IR: Alternatives	Bova, Ch 1 (24-32); Reader Ch 1 (Wendt)
Sept 15-17	The State System & Historical Perspectives	Bova Ch 2 (All) Reader Ch 8 (Krasner & Schroeder)
Sept 22	Levels of Analysis/FP	Bova, Ch 3 (all) Reader Ch 3 (Mearsheimer/Walt & Mueller)
Sept 24	Foreign Policy Decision Making	Reader Ch 3 Reader Ch 3 (Yetiv)

September 24th	Paper #1 Due: Liberalism vs. Realism
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Sept 29 **EXAM 1**

II. Conflict, Terrorism, and Peace

Oct 1	The Historical Record and Causes of Conflict	Bova Ch 4 (all) Reader Ch 4 (Jervis)
Oct 6	Causes of Conflict	Organski and Kuegler (BB)
Oct 8 & 13	Dr. Strangelove and Deterrence	Reader Ch 4 (Rosen)
Oct 15	The Future of War/Terrorism	Mueller "The Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons" (Blackboard); Harrelson-Stephens and Callaway (BB)
Oct 20 - 22	Terrorism and Peace	Reader Ch 4 (Mueller)

October 22 Paper #2 Due: Deterrence and Dr. Strangelove

Oct 27 EXAM 2

III. Special Topics and Conclusion

Oct 29	International Law/Organizations	Bova Ch 5 (all) Reader Ch 5 (Keohane & Glennon)
Nov 3	Human Rights	Bova Ch 6 (all) Reader Ch 6 (Sikkink)
Nov 5	Humanitarian Intervention	Reader Ch 6 (Kurth) Powers (BB)
Nov 10	IPE and Oil	Bova Ch 7 (all) Freidman (BB)
Nov 12	The Environment	Bova Ch 8 (all) Reader Ch 8 (Victor)
Nov 17	The Future	Bova Ch 9 (all) Reader Ch 9 (Huntington)
Nov 19	The Future	Reader Ch 9 (Freidman; Hunt)
Nov 24	EXAM 3	
December 1 & 3	Class Presentations	
December 8 & 10	Class Presentations	
	Paper #3 Due on December 8 - The Future	
December 15	Class Presentations	

Case Dossier and Presentation

Case Dossier:

Groups of 3 students should choose a topic dealing with a current or relatively recent international issue. This issue might cover a conflict, such as the recent one in Georgia, an environmental issue, such as the ratification of Kyoto, or a human rights issue such as human trafficking. Your topic and group must be approved by the professor no later than **September 17th**.

Once your topic is approved, you should research the topic and prepare the following dossier:

1. A historical timeline of the relevant events (1-2 pages)
2. An annotated bibliography. The annotated bibliography is formatted like a regular bibliography but with a brief summary of each citation. You should include at least 5 citations that are not from the internet (3-7 pages)
3. A Theoretical Analysis of the event you have chosen. (2-3 pages) This is the crux of the assignment. You must identify the theory you think best explains your event and specify how and why. You should choose at least three assumptions or hypotheses of the theory you chose and discuss how these are borne out by your case. This analysis should include
 - a. an introductory paragraph (with a roadmap), that tells the reader which case you've chosen and which theory you will use to examine your case,
 - b. At least 3 paragraphs examining the aspects (assumptions/hypotheses) of your theory and case,
 - c. An additional paragraph pointing out possible flaws of this theory with reference to your case, and
 - d. A paragraph drawing conclusions about your chosen theory.
 - e. NOTE: The theoretical analysis should not include a historical account of your case. See point 1.

Your dossier should be word processed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, and separated into the three components. It should be turned in no later than **5:00 December 1st**. Your dossier grade will be based on accurate research, clear and compelling theoretical analysis and your ability to convey your thoughts clearly. To that end, you may find it helpful to have your paper read by a peer and/or seek assistance at the writing lab.

Case Presentations:

The purpose of these presentations is to summarize your case and apply a theory(s) we learned in class to your case. Your grade will be based on your presentation of the case and application of relevant theories. Below is a general guideline for you to follow.

1. Present a summary of your case and then summarize for the class HOW the theory you chose best explains your case.
2. Decide how you want to organize the class. For example, some topics may lend themselves to a debate, where two sides are presented. You can be creative here - the idea is to inform and generate discussion. If you need audio-visual equipment for your presentation, it is your responsibility to check that everything is working properly prior to class time. Audio-visual equipment is notoriously unreliable, so you should be prepared to present without it.
3. The day of your presentation, you will need to turn in a typed outline of your class presentation and any other handouts you've prepared for the class.
4. Each participant will also turn in a sheet describing how much each of the participants (including yourself) contributed to the overall presentation and dossier. The overall contribution should add up to 100%. This may be turned in up to 24 hours after your presentation is completed.

Your grade will reflect content, theoretical evaluation and style of presentation. You will lose points, for example, if you read most of your presentation. On the other hand, you will gain points for a well thought-out presentation that generates discussion in the class. I also give points for creativity!

Each group will have 25 minutes total including any formal presentation and informal discussion/activity. Once a presentation is scheduled it will generally not be rescheduled. Exceptions may be made with a dated doctor's receipt. If you choose to drop the class it is **COMMON COURTESY** for you to call and inform your partner.